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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/814,981	03/30/2004	Tae-Woong Koo	INTEL1490 (P18518)	8675
28213	7590	01/12/2006	EXAMINER	
DLA PIPER RUDNICK GRAY CARY US, LLP			DO, PENSEE T	
4365 EXECUTIVE DRIVE			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
SUITE 1100			1641	
SAN DIEGO, CA 92121-2133			DATE MAILED: 01/12/2006	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/814,981	KOO ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Pensee T. Do	1641

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 October 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Amendment Entry & Claim Status

The amendment filed on October 03, 2005 has been acknowledged and entered.

Claims 1-34 are pending.

Withdrawn Rejection(s)

Rejection under 112, 2nd paragraph is withdrawn herein.

New Grounds of Rejection

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1 and 22, the newly added limitation is unclear what is meant by "the surface-enhanced Raman scattering signal". There are two signals monitored, one before the second specific binding pair member is added and another signal is after binding. Which signal is meant for the signal recited in such newly added limitation.

Maintained Rejection(s)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4, 6-11, 13-17, 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tarcha et al. (US 5,376,556).

Tarcha teaches a method, composition, device and kit for the determination of the presence or amount of an analyte by monitoring an analyte-mediated ligand binding even in a test mixture, which contains the analyte to be assayed, a specific binding member, a Raman-active label and a particulate having a surface for inducing a surface-enhanced Raman light scattering. The differences in the detected surface-enhanced Raman scattering spectra are dependent upon the amount of analyte present in the test mixture. (col. 5, line 60-col. 6, line 9; line 65-col. 7, line 6). Regarding claims 3 and 20, Tarcha teaches that the specific binding member is attached to the SERS-active surface by direct adsorption, attachment through intervening molecule or a linker arm, covalently attached to the specific binding member or by the covalent attachment of the specific binding member to a coating on the SERS-active surface directly or through a linker arm or by intercalation of the distal portion of a linker arm into the enhancing surface. (see col. 14, lines 23-33). The conjugate of the SERS-active surface and the specific binding member is contacted with the complementary specific binding member (or analyte) and detecting a difference in a surface-enhanced Raman scattering signal of the conjugate before contacting the with the complementary binding member and after contacting with the complementary binding member thereby detecting the binding of the binding members. The difference in the surface-enhanced Raman

scattering signal is a decrease in the signal (The samples which had been pre-exposed to free biotin (analyte or second specific binding member) showed weaker signals than those which did not come in contact with biotin-- see example 18). The Raman active particle or substrate is a metal particle such as gold, silver or copper. (see col. 10, lines 3-11). Regarding claim 11, Tarcha teaches that an enhancer such as salt can be added into the mixture. (see col. 9, lines 50-55). The first and second specific binding member is a protein, antibody molecule or fragment thereof, receptor and ligand, nucleic acid molecules. (see col. 33-54). The first specific binding pair member is bound to a surface-enhanced Raman scattering label. (see col. 14, lines 34-60). With respect to claim 9 and 10, Tarcha teaches in example 4, col. 18, lines 31-50, that the DNB solution display the SERS enhancement when absorbed to the silver film. A DNB solution in the absence of an island film gave a very weak Raman spectrum. With regards to claim 8, Tarcha teaches in example 6, fig. 5 that SERS signal is measured at different concentration of target analyte and there is an increase in intensity as the concentration increases. The first specific binding member is a antibody or fragment thereof. Regarding claim 7, the present specification teaches on page 7, [0027], that "SERS signal generated by the first binding pair member is reduced when a second specific binding pair member quenches the SERS signal of the first specific binding pair member. This quenching of the SERS signal can be the result of dissociation of the first specific binding pair member from the SERS active substrate upon binding of the second specific binding pair member to the first member". Since Tarcha teaches that when the second binding pair member binds to the first binding pair member, the SERS

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signal is reduced. Thus, it is inherent that the result of such reduction in SERS signal in Tarcha is the result of dissociation of the first specific binding pair member from the SERS active substrate/particle upon binding of the second binding pair member to the first member.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tarcha et al. (US 5,376,556) in view of Fray (US 4,904,356).

Tarcha has been discussed above.

However, Tarcha fails to teach the chemical salt is lithium chloride.

Fray teaches using lithium chloride salt to as a salt of a metal surface to be refined. Such salt when saturating the metal surface allows the metal ions to move through freely. (see col. 1, lines 27-40).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skills in the art to use lithium chloride as taught by Fray as an enhancer for the metal surface in the assay mixture as in the method of Tarcha since Tarcha teaches using an enhancer such as a salt. Since this salt is used for refining metal surface, advantageously when it is used as an enhancer, it keeps the metal ions on the metal surface intact or prevents the metal ions on the metal surface from being wear off.

Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tarcha et al. (US 5,376,556) in view of Gole et al. (US 6,589,883).

Tarcha has been discussed above.

However, Tarcha fails to teach the SERS active substrate is a porous silicon substrate comprising impregnated metals.

Gole teaches metalizing substrates such as porous silicon for use in Raman scattering detection. (see col. 1, line 60-col. 2, line 3; col. 3, lines 1-3; lines 34-42).

Since Tarcha teaches that the surface of the Raman active substrate can be made of metal or silica (see col. 11, lines 52-55), it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skills in the art to use porous silicon substrate coated with metals as a Raman-active substrate as taught in Gole because high-surface area substrates such as porous silicon display a visible photoluminescence upon excitation with a variety of visible and ultraviolet light sources.

Claims 5, 22-28, 30, 31-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tarcha et al. (US 5,376,556) in view of Maine et al. (US 6,221,619).

Tarcha has been discussed above.

However, Tarcha fails to teach immobilizing the first specific binding pair member/antibody on an immobilizing substrate.

Maine teaches different assay formats comprising attaching antibody/antigen to a solid phase such as porous, non-porous materials, latex particles, magnetic particles, microparticles, beads, membranes, microtiter wells, and plastic tubes. One of the antibody/antigen reagents used in an immunoassay is attached to a signal-generating

compound or label. This signal-generating compound is in itself detectable or may be reacted with one or more additional compounds to generate a detectable product. Detection systems is Raman spectroscopy. (see col. 9, line 52-col. 10, line 20).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skills in the art to immobilize the antibody/antigen to a solid phase such as magnetic particles, beads, etc. as taught by Maine before attaching to a signal generating compound such as colloidal metal particles in the method of Tarcha because immobilization of the antibody/binder/antigen to a solid support before attaching the antibody/binder to colloidal metal particles for a surface enhanced scattering signal detection can capture the analyte and detect at the same time without using a second capture antibody.

Claim 29 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tarcha et al. (US 5,376,556) in view of Maine et al. (US 6,221,619) as applied to claim 22-28, 30-34 above, and further in view of Fray (US 4,904,356).

Tarcha and Maine have been discussed above.

However, Tarcha and Maine fail to teach the first specific binding pair member is adsorbed on the metal particle in the presence of lithium chloride.

Fray teaches using lithium chloride salt to as a salt of a metal surface to be refined. Such salt when saturating the metal surface allows the metal ions to move through freely. (see col. 1, lines 27-40).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skills in the art to use lithium chloride as taught by Fray as an enhancer for the metal surface in the assay mixture as in the combined method of Tarcha and Maine since Tarcha teaches using an enhancer

such as a salt. Since this salt is used for refining metal surface, advantageously when it is used as an enhancer, it keeps the metal ions on the metal surface intact or prevents the metal ions on the metal surface from being wear off.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed October 03, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding the 102 rejection, Applicants submit that the present invention does not detect a surface-enhanced Raman scattering signal by illuminating the test mixture with a radiation sufficient to cause the Raman-active label as in Tarcha. The method of the present invention are used to detect interaction between virtually any molecules provided that one of the molecule generates a detectable SERS signal when associated with a SERS active particle or substrate. Furthermore the present invention does not require the use of a label as defined in Tarcha.

The claims of the present invention contain comprising opening language. Thus, they fail to exclude the use of radiation to excite the SERS signals or the use of a label. Tarcha method achieves the same purpose, as that of the present invention, which is to detect the SERS signal when the analyte interacts with the surface for inducing a surface-enhanced Raman light scattering. Thus, the Raman light scattering is induced by the SERS surface/substrate. (see col. 5, line 60-col. 7, line 9; line 65-col. 7, line 6). Since the Raman light scattering is induced by the SERS surface/substrate, when the specific binding member is associated with such surface, Raman light scattering will be produced regardless of if there is a label or not. Tarcha discusses this Surface

enhanced Raman scattering on col. 4, line 47-col. 5, line 2. In this discussion, the label is not needed. Tarcha although uses illumination with radiation to generate the SERS signal, the signal is still excited when the first member is associated with the surface-enhanced Raman scattering active particle or substrate. As discussed above, the SERS surface induces Raman light scattering.

Regarding the 103 rejections, the argument is the same as above (relied upon the primary reference, Tarcha). Therefore, no furthermore discussion is necessary.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pensee T. Do whose telephone number is 571-272-0819. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:00-3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Long Le can be reached on 571-272-0823. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Pensee T. Do
Patent Examiner
January 06, 2006



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